

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT
#SP-076-PHS-EMS**

**Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Within EMT-P Scope of Practice
Under A.A.C. R9-25-502**

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

The purpose of this substantive policy statement is to notify the public that the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) considers continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) to be within the EMT-P scope of practice under A.A.C. R9-25-502.

A.A.C. R9-25-502, EMT's Scope of Practice, provides:

An EMT shall perform a medical treatment, procedure, or technique and administer a medication only:

1. Under medical direction if required in A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 21.1 and R9-25-201;
2. **As prescribed in the EMT-B, EMT-I, or EMT-P training curriculum required for Arizona certification or NREMT registration;**
3. In a manner consistent with R9-25-410; and
4. According to protocols established in this Article.

A.A.C. R9-25-502 (emphasis added).

CPAP is expressly included in the NHTSA EMT-Paramedic: National Standard Curriculum (1998), which is adopted as the Arizona EMT-P course in A.A.C. R9-25-308. Because ADHS has not excluded CPAP from the Arizona EMT-P course or adopted a protocol in 9 A.A.C. 25, Article 5 to preclude an EMT-P from performing CPAP, CPAP is within the EMT-P scope of practice under A.A.C. R9-25-502.

As with any EMT-P skill, CPAP can only be performed by an EMT-P under medical direction and in a manner consistent with A.A.C. R9-25-410, EMT Standards of Practice. A.A.C. R9-25-410 expressly requires, among other things, that an EMT-P comply with the treatment protocols approved by the EMT-P's administrative medical director. Thus, an EMT-P may only perform CPAP with authorization from and in accordance with the medical direction of the EMT-P's administrative medical director.

***Effective March 13, 2006
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